

Rockport Harbor Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting December 18, 2013 at 5PM
Rockport Library

Present: Chairman Montello; Vice Chairman Murch, Fred Hillier, Kevin Carrigan; Larry Stepenuck; Phil Crotty—Quorum Present

Absent: None

Other Attendees: Harbormaster Scott Story; Harbormaster Rosemary Lesch; Billy Lee; Steve Ouellette, Esq* ; Bob Smith*; Toby Arsenian*; Zenas Seppala

*former HAC Committee member

Chairman Montello welcomed the guests. Motion was then made and seconded to approve the November 2013 Minutes. All were in favor.

Chairman Montello stated that the ethics training is State mandated and proceeded to collect the forms which he will bring to the Town as required. He suggested how to get assistance to any member who had not completed it, and warned of the impending deadline.

Chairman then discussed tonight's agenda and plan for 2104. His view for 2014 is to limit HAC involvement to three matters: Chapter 91 of Massachusetts Statute; Granite Pier Extension Project; and Harbor items. Resident Arsenian mentioned that the HAC Committee should pay attention to what the Board of Selectmen (BOS) are working on with regard to Chapter 91.

The Chairman then turned the meeting over to Crotty who had prepared a presentation on the Army Corps Study of Rockport Harbor in 1965. Steve Ouellette has provided the copy of the 1965 document. Prior to his presentation Crotty had distributed a packet to the members and Harbormasters containing the 1965 Army Corps study and related material.

Stepenuck pointed out before the presentation began that the Granite Pier project should be regarded as a concept and not a project. He objected to the term engineering study in lieu of a feasibility study. He said the HAC should deal instead with Chapter 91, and security, and that the harbors need attention.

Crotty proceeded to make a Granite Pier presentation, suggesting the HAC committee seek a study for extending Granite Pier based on the 1965 Study by ACOE, and approaching the CPC Committee for funds for the study under the category of "Create land-recreation" or "Open Space-Ocean- Preservation." At the conclusion Montello thanked Crotty and asked to hear from the others present. Discussion followed in which members and all guests spoke. Of the five guests present, Ouellette, Lee, Smith and Seppala spoke in favor of moving the Granite Pier project and presented their views for doing so. Arsenian was opposed and laid out his view. Among the positive points made were that fishermen would be protected, Army Corps has no money for such projects nowadays, maintenance of existing harbors should take priority, CPC money should be used in part for boating since Rockport is a boating community, Granite Pier

Harbor will be made safer, eel grass will be protected, a fueling station can be established, and the mooring list will be cut drastically. Among the negative points raised were cost and traffic.

Harbormaster Scott Story reported that the harbormasters have favored this project for twenty years. When asked how many boats could be accommodated, he reported that they had one proposal for floats that could accommodate three hundred boats. He also said there is no safe harbor in Rockport, and moreover, when the Town accepted Army Corps funds for drainage in Rockport Harbor, the town agreed to create a safe harbor and that was not done, and the Granite Pier project would fix that open issue. Harbormaster Rosemary Lesch reported that they had already spoken to Senator Tarr, and he will assist in this project and said there are Seacoast funds available. She said the project just needs to get off the ground.

Montello said he wants to make sure the townspeople get full opportunity to be heard on the project, if the HAC committee takes a first step toward getting it started.

Discussion followed about who submits the application. It could be the HAC committee, Harbormasters, or DPW. Montello asked how to get the application, which can be downloaded, and he will work to fill it out with Paul St. Germain.

Montello then told Crotty to read a motion on the subject, as follows:

ROCKPORT HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Motion Regarding Granite Pier Extension

Motion By: Chairman Montello

Seconded by: Fred Hillier

Be It Resolved that the Chairman or his designee be authorized to immediately request proposals from consulting firms to prepare a feasibility study of the extension of Granite Pier to Gull Island, based on the 1965 Army Corps of Engineers Study of Rockport Harbor at Gull Cove, including updated and current environmental, permitting, planning, and funding issues; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Chairman or his designee thereafter submit an application prior to the February 3, 2014 deadline to the Rockport Community Preservation Committee for funding the feasibility study.

Roll call:

Chairman Montello Yes

Vice Chairman Murch Yes

Mr. Hillier Yes

Mr. Carrigan *Yes*

Mr. Stepenuck *No*

Mr. Crotty *Yes*

Ayes 5 Nays 1

Motion Adopted

Date: 12-18-2013

Motion concurred in by Harbormaster Scott Story and Harbormaster Rosemary Lesch.

The Harbormasters then gave a status report on other matters: The Pigeon Cove breakwater repairs are underway. Stones that fell down during one storm cannot be moved with FEMA funds from another storm—the DPW is working that issue and has a grip on it. Whitewater harbor repairs are underway right now.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM Next meeting January 15, 2014 at 5PM in library.

Phil Crotty
Secretary